increased from Rs. 621.00 crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 2792.59 crore in 2000-01.

(d) The RRBs were undergoing expansion phase and as such the branch net work of RRBs was widened and recruitment of staff took place upto 1990. Subsequently the RRBs have been advised to undergo consolidation of their financial position.

Customs duty on non-cooking coal

3698. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of the power plants which use imported coal were affected due to hike in customs duty on non-cooking coal which let to a direct use in the price of electricity; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the interests of the domestic coal industry, no change has been made in the rates of customs duty on coal.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms

3699. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms to accelerate second generation reforms and boost economy has been set up;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and specific purpose of the Committee;

(c) the concrete suggestions or guidelines given by the Committee on various aspects of economic reforms;

(d) the exact result yielded by these suggestions so given by the Committee; and

(e) what is the time-frame for the said Committee to submit its final report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms has been constituted by the Government in November, 2001 and a meeting of the said Committee has been held in December, 2001. This Committee does not have any specific time frame and considers proposals on the related subject placed before it from time to time.

Additional posts of Chief Commissioners in IT Department

3700. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax have been created;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 292 posts of Commissioners have also been created;

(c) if so, what would be the additional burden on exchaquer per year due to such creation;

(d) the compelling circumstances necessitating the creation of so large number of additional posts in the Income Tax Department at one time; and

(e) whether this expansion is in keeping with the downsizing policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The Income Tax Department has been recently restructured. The objective behind the restructuring of the Income tax Department is to increase the productivity of the Department through induction of technology, re-designing business process through functional specialization and